

## Abstract

A thixotropy-imparting agent comprises chain clay mineral particles which have a thixotropic index (TI) of not smaller than 4.0 in a dispersion solution obtained by dispersing chain clay mineral particles at a concentration of 7% by weight in diethylhexyl phthalate (DOP) as a dispersing medium and not smaller than 3.0 in a dispersion solution obtained by dispersing chain clay mineral particles at a concentration of 3% by weight in water as a dispersion medium, and have a bulk density of not larger than 0.125 g/ml, and a particle size distribution of secondary particles as measured by a laser method, in which particle sizes of larger than 1.0  $\mu\text{m}$  but not larger than 30 $\mu\text{m}$  are not less than 70% by weight and particle sizes of not larger than 1.0  $\mu\text{m}$  are in a range of 5 to 30% by weight.

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